

B) Remarks:

To Applicant's knowledge, Applicant provides the only locking pliers of the type which incorporate a past-dead-center locking toggle mechanism wherein the operating lever or handle of the moveable assembly is supported directly on the stationary jaw via a pivot. To Applicant's knowledge all prior art locking pliers of this type either directly or indirectly instead support the operating lever on the moveable jaw, not the stationary jaw, which is contrary to the teachings of the present invention. Accordingly, the scope of claim 1 has been broadened to reflect this.

In addition, to Applicant's knowledge, Applicant's locking pliers are also the only locking pliers of the type which utilize a past-dead-center locking toggle mechanism which are also self-adjusting. This feature is inserted by way of original claim 2 in combination with currently amended claim 1.

The former limitations of the link mechanism provided in the moveable assembly is now fully incorporated into dependent claim 6 and the other dependent claims have been modified to properly conform to the language of currently amended claim 1 in order to provide a proper antecedent basis.

Respectfully submitted,

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